

Chicopee Register

Marching to protect education

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

Massachusetts educators are back on the march, imploring legislators to protect the thousands of teaching positions that are in jeopardy throughout the commonwealth. A June 16 car parade circled the region before culminating at Haigis Mall on the campus of UMass Amherst.

“It was an awesome display of solidarity from all of the educators in this area. The point was to say that this isn’t a Chicopee issue or a South Hadley issue; it’s a statewide issue and a nationwide issue that has to be addressed,” said Laura Demakis, president of the Chicopee Education Association.

Last Tuesday’s march was organized by the Western Mass. Educator Action Network in conjunction with the Massachusetts Teachers Association. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, school districts all over the state are facing massive budget cuts and layoffs as a result in declining state revenues.

“We need all voices heard at this time. Our kids are at risk,” said Demakis. “Everywhere is looking at cuts. In Chicopee, we’re looking at



STAFF PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

Future student Kayden Laplante supports educational funding during a June 16 rally on the campus of UMass Amherst.

not filling positions that are being left vacant due to attrition. Those are still positions that aren’t going to be filled.”

Educators across the state have fought valiantly for educational justice and will not

See **MARCHING** page 6

COMMUNITY

Chicopee couple combats COVID-19

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

More than 2.3 million Americans have contracted COVID-19 over the past four months, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Among them are Ben and Rebecca Whitten, a Chicopee couple who spoke in detail on their shared encounter with coronavirus.

“Chances are I picked up at work; I work in a hospital. I got home from work one day and I was just exhausted. I slept right through until the next morning and woke up with a fever of 104,” said Ben Whitten, a Clinical Engineer at Saint Francis Hospital & Medical Center in Hartford, Connecticut.

Five days after being tested, Ben was diagnosed with

COVID-19 in late April. Fortunately, he’d begun his quarantine immediately after experiencing his first symptoms of the virus.

“Well, I was living on my couch, separated from my family for the first couple of days. We split the first floor of my house in half; I had the living room and the downstairs bathroom and didn’t have any interaction with my family,” he said.

Despite taking precautionary measures, Rebecca also came down with COVID-19. She described her symptoms and the difficulties that they caused.

“I couldn’t taste or smell anything for a good two weeks and had joint pains. There was no fever and no chills,” she said. “Even though we were isolating, I was making sure

that we had everything we need. I honestly think that Instacart really saved us because we were able to get groceries without having to see or talk to anybody. That was really helpful.”

Rebecca acknowledged that her case was far less serious than her husband’s. Ben divulged that he’s battled asthma for decades, a reality that was both beneficial and detrimental during his run-in with COVID-19.

“Once the fever started to get back to normal, the respiratory symptoms started. With my asthma, I’d start a coughing fit and 45 minutes later be gasping for breath and throwing up because I was coughing so much,” he said. “I’ve had asthma my entire life so I know what it’s like to not be able to breathe when you’re trying to

breathe. That helped me not have a panic attack or anything like that, but it was down to my chest. My body was actively trying to breathe but it just wasn’t able to fill my lungs as much as I needed.”

Being separated from Ben during his state of vulnerability made the experience even more stressful for Rebecca. She spent countless hours awake at night, monitoring her husband’s health remotely.

“I ended up getting a baby monitor because I kept hearing all of those scary stories of people in the middle of the night stopping breathing. I got the baby monitor to have downstairs so that I could listen to Ben so I wouldn’t miss anything because I was scared,” said Rebecca.

See **COUPLE** page 5



LITERATURE
Local author pens novel

See Page 2

OPINION
When feathered fledglings fly

See Page 4



SPORTS
Ortiz was set to lead Pacers

See Page 7



FACES & PLACES
Chicopee student graduates

See Page 9

INDEX	
Opinion	4
Sports	7
Faces and Places	9
Classifieds	10-11
Public Notices	11

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Novel blends city, military history

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

An author with Chicopee roots has released the first novel of a six-part volume that incorporates the city’s history while chronicling the American military conflicts of the past century. “The Remains of the Corps: An Illustrated Novel” contains more than 100,000 words and 134 portraits and sketches.

Tom Hebert, a Vietnam Marine Corps veteran who was born in Springfield and raised in Chicopee, has dedicated the passion project to his late father, a Marine who served in World War II. He described the story that he captured within the recently-completed novel.

“The book starts at Harvard from 1913 to 1915 where two friends are made; the primary character is Kenneth Remain and his friend is Lawrence Blakely. Then, there’s a love interest; this young lady was from Chicopee and would go to a school near Harvard called Radcliffe College.

Hebert named the love interest “Katie K. Mulcahy,” after viewing the Mulcahy name on a memorial outside of City Hall on Springfield Street. Chicopee will play a significant role in the series, which follows an American family’s service from World War I through the Vietnam War.

Hebert himself served in Vietnam from Jan. 1970 through Jan. 1971. While he now lives in Connecticut and works professionally as a certified public accountant for organizations in and around Hartford, Connecticut, Hebert has maintained an affinity for Chicopee.

He’s leaned on his own military experiences and those of his father while pursuing the mammoth literary endeavor. In many ways, Hebert’s work will keep the memory of his father alive.

“I dedicated the book to my dad. He lived to be 96 so I’m counting on his

genes; in fact, we talked about the book a great deal while he was alive. I was about six years into it when he passed. We sometimes joked if I’d ever finish it or not. On his death bed, I promised him that I would finish the writing,” said Hebert.

Hebert has trained for 10 years to become a novelist. He stated that conducting research has been a critical component of the writing process and an activity that brought him back to the city of Chicopee.

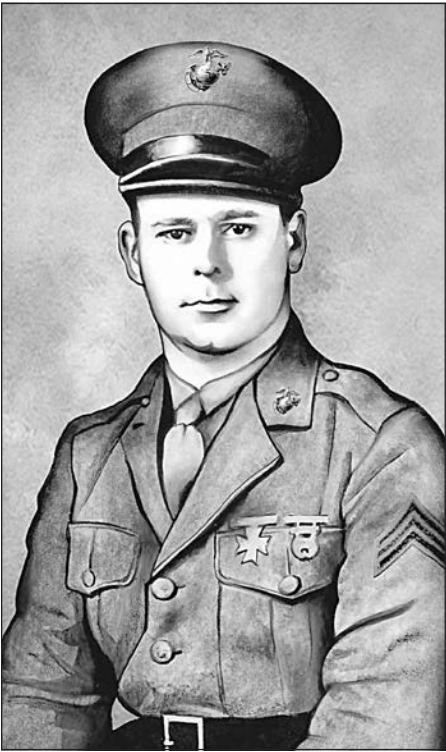
“There’s a lot of Chicopee involved in the book. Some of the scenes in Volume II are set [in Chicopee],” he said. “Right now, I’m working on Volume II, which covers a good portion of the war in France; the Battle of Belleau Wood. I’ve done virtually all the research for this volume and several future volumes so now I’m doing the writing.”

If the pandemic subsides, Hebert plans to visit the battleground in France next year. Through his work, he hopes to honor the Marine Corps, which has been prominent in his life since an early age.

“My dad sang the Marine Corps hymn very often when I was young. I got in the habit of singing it, and before you knew it, I was in uniform,” said Hebert. “My experience in the Marine Corps has meant a tremendous amount to me. I’m honored by my service, and it’s made me the person that I am today in terms of father/son/husband. It gave me a lot of strength; my pride in the Marine Corps.”

As mentioned, a portion of Volume II will be centered around Chicopee. While the novel is not yet complete, Hebert offered Chicopee residents a glimpse of the role that their city will play.

“In Volume II, one of the chapters that I’ve written is when Lawrence comes back to Chicopee to visit Katie K. as they go to the Springfield Armory. My wife and I made a visit to the armory a few years back, and that sparked my interest in doing that,” he said.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

William G. Hebert, a World War II veteran, helped inspire the book “The Remains of the Corps: An Illustrated Novel,” written by his son, Tom Hebert. Tom dedicated the work to his late father.

The Ames Manufacturing Company, a Chicopee-based business that produced ammunition and even the doors for the U.S. Capitol Building, and MacArthur’s Ball, a memorial on Church Street dedicated to Lt. Gen. Arthur MacArthur Jr., will also be included.

Hebert writes under the alias Will Remain, as the fictional grandson of Kenneth Remain, the protagonist of Volume I. He admitted that writing a series of six lengthy novels is a difficult task but feels as though he’s up to the challenge.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Tom Hebert, formerly of Chicopee, pictured during a combat tour in Vietnam. Hebert recently penned the book “The Remains of the Corps: An Illustrated Novel,” which incorporates Chicopee history while chronicling U.S. military conflicts of the last century.

“One novelist said that you just have to abandon family, friends and everything and just do the work,” said Hebert. “I didn’t take that position; that’s not a healthy position to take, but you have to work long hours. I work in the mornings before work and in the evenings after. It’s a time commitment, and you have to be persistent and resilient.”

Dalton Zbierski is a staff writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

Governor issues proclamation marking Juneteenth

BOSTON – Gov. Charlie Baker recently issued a proclamation declaring June 19, 2020 as “Juneteenth Independence Day” in the commonwealth of Massachusetts. Celebrated each year on June 19, Juneteenth commemorates the end of slavery in the United States, and is an opportunity to reflect on the need to continue working toward racial justice.

“Juneteenth is a chance for us all to reflect on this country’s painful history of slavery and the systemic impact that racial injustice continues to have today,” Baker said. “It is also an opportunity to recommit ourselves to the goal of creating a more equal and just society. As our

country continues the national conversation around racial injustice, it is especially important that we recognize Juneteenth. I look forward to working with our legislative colleagues to recognize this important day more widely going forward.”

Juneteenth is recognized each year on June 19. On that day in 1865, Major Gen. Gordon

Granger and his Union troops landed in Galveston, Texas, and announced that the Civil War had ended. Gordon read a proclamation declaring that all enslaved people were free. The first Juneteenth was celebrated a year later in Texas and today is recognized across the country to mark this important milestone. M.G.L. Chapter 6, Section

“As our country continues the national conversation around racial injustice, it is especially important that we recognize Juneteenth.”

Gov. Charlie Baker

15BBBBB states, “The governor shall annually issue a proclamation setting apart the nineteenth of June as Juneteenth Independence Day, to be observed on the Sunday that is closest to June 19th of each year, in recognition of June 19, 1865 when Union General Gordon Granger announced freedom for all slaves in the Southwestern United States and in recognition of the end of slavery in the United States as well as the significant contributions individuals of African descent have made to the Commonwealth and to the United States and recommending that said day be observed in an appropriate manner by the people.”

Family members, Mass. VFW support new Soldiers’ Home

HOLYOKE – A coalition of veterans, family members, veteran services representatives and concerned citizens are petitioning Gov. Charlie Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito to immediately approve a project that would result in a new Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke.

The group has created a web page (FundHolyokeSoldiersHomeNow.org) where citizens can link to a petition. The web page also provides sample letters and telephone messages for people to write to and call elected officials.

“I support immediate action by Governor Baker and legislature to provide state funding to renovate and expand the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke by July 31, 2020, in order to allow the correction of serious conditions which have been ignored for

several years,” says the group’s petition.

As of Friday evening, more than 900 people have signed the petition, which states that conditions at the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke are unacceptable and violate the patient rights of veterans for safe and adequate care.

The coalition formed after news reports that a project for a new wing at the Soldiers’ Home was approved for 65 percent federal funding in 2013 but has never received a commitment from the Baker administration for state matching funds to proceed.

“We want to be part of the solution to take advantage of a major opportunity to make things right for the families of the Veterans who died, right for the families of the Veterans who died, right for the in-

credibly dedicated staff who had to work in those conditions and right for future generations of Veterans who will need the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke,” says the group’s message on its web page.

In addition to the online petition, a group of family members of veterans who died at the Soldiers’ Home after testing positive for COVID-19 sent a letter to Baker to request state approval of the project that would result in a new five-story addition.

In his first official action as the newly installed commander of the Massachusetts Department of Foreign Wars, Russ Jobe signed a letter on behalf of all state VFW members calling on Baker to support the new construction.

The best path forward following the

deaths of more than 75 Veteran residents who tested positive for COVID-19 at the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke is a vastly improved facility for the Veterans, says the petition and letters.

“We envision a Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke where Veterans enjoy excellent quality of life and quality of care; where they, their families, and the staff engage in relationships that result in the best possible environment where Veterans want to live and staff want to work; and where all are protected, sustained in the safest and most compassionate Home possible,” says the group.

More information about the group’s mission and vision to include a narrative of the construction project can be found at www.fundholyokesoldiershomenow.org

Summertime activities in the COVID-19 world

Baystate doctor answers safety questions

SPRINGFIELD – Summer officially began June 21, but already with the recent Memorial Day holiday, people around the country flocked to open beaches, packed open bars and restaurants, and attended backyard barbecues.

But, many left one important aspect behind – safety in the “new normal” of COVID-19.

“The warmer weather has arrived and as states relax their stay-at-home orders it’s only normal for people to want to enjoy the fresh air, get some exercise and participate in sports, as well as reconnect with friends and family,” said Dr. Armando Paez, chief of the Infectious Diseases Division at Baystate Medical Center.

“However, we need to remember that COVID-19 is still very much in our communities and it’s imperative until we have a vaccine to continue to wear a face mask and maintain social distancing,” he added.

To help keep families safe this summer, Paez answers some common questions.

Q: Is it safe to go to the beach this summer and what precautions would you recommend?

A: Visiting the beach varies in risk depending upon the circumstances. As best we know, there is little risk of catching COVID-19 from jumping into the salty ocean water for a swim. What is of concern are the videos we saw on Memorial Day weekend of crowded beaches, where there was little social distancing and many not wearing masks. I cannot stress enough the need to maintain social distancing and wearing a mask. Currently, there is no evidence yet that COVID-19 can be spread to hu-

mans through most recreational water, and thus, there is no recommendation that you need to wear any facemask going down into the water. Additional concerns are high-touch bathhouses at the seashore, boardwalks where people congregate, and food stands and restaurants. Consider packing your own meal for the beach, don’t forget your hand sanitizer, and, as always, protect yourself from the sun’s damaging rays by applying sunscreen regularly.

Q: Is it safe to cool off in a public pool, one at a hotel, or at someone’s home other than your own?

A: Who doesn’t want to cool off in a pool this summer, especially if you have no air conditioning at home. It’s also fun and all that splashing around can be physically healthy. But, not all public pools will open this summer. It is important to note, however, that according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, chlorine in the water should kill the virus. What is of concern is maintaining social distancing while in a crowded pool, perhaps much easier for an adult than children. There are also a number of high-touch areas to consider, such as railings, lounge chairs (which should be at least six feet apart), and in changing rooms and at the snack bar where the coronavirus can still live. While it may not be practical to wear a mask in the water, I would certainly wear one outside of the pool. You need to be comfortable with the family whose home you are visiting, as well as others they have invited to enjoy their pool. Just as at the beach, don’t forget your sunscreen and hand sanitizer.

Q: If I’m outdoors running or walking, do I need to wear a mask? They are hard to breathe in and exercise makes it harder.

A: There’s nothing like a good car-

diovascular workout offered by running or a brisk walk. If you are out in the neighborhood having yourself a healthy walk, I think it is fine not to wear a mask, but you still may want to carry one with you just in case you see someone you want to speak with. On the other hand, if you are walking along more congested city sidewalks, then it’s a good idea to wear your mask. Runners should also practice social distancing and wearing a mask will depend on how congested the area is where you are running. Definitely wear a mask if with someone or in a group. Still, running alone is probably best during the pandemic. If you find it hard to breathe when running with a mask, try to find a trail that will allow you to run by yourself without the need to wear a mask. Otherwise, it may be better to find an alternative activity.

Q: What about playing baseball, basketball and other sports with friends or more organized sports?

A: Group sports with friends and others at the park or in backyards such as baseball, basketball, soccer, and football are risky because they are contact sports and difficult to maintain social distancing and transmission of COVID-19, as opposed to tennis and other racquet sports or golf. The CDC currently recommends on its website: “No organized sports or activities, given the many challenges of containing the virus in group settings. In general, most organized activities and sports such as basketball, baseball, soccer, and football that are held on park fields, open areas, and courts are not recommended during times in which individuals are encouraged or required to practice social distancing. These activities and sports typically require coaches and athletes who are not from the same household or living unit to be in close proximity, which increases their potential for exposure to COVID-19.”

Q: Is hiking safe? Do I need to wear a mask if hiking with others or alone?

A: The physical activity of hiking in the great outdoors can energize the spirit, mind and body. In general, you probably don’t need to wear a mask if hiking alone or with someone from your household. If it’s an organized group hike, I would recommend wearing a mask and maintaining social distancing. Even if you are hiking alone, it’s a good idea to carry a mask with you in case you visit a crowded public area.

Q: Should I attend a backyard barbecue/party if invited?

A: Having a small outdoor gathering like a backyard barbecue or party with other people from different households who come from the same local area carries small risk for getting COVID-19. It is recommended to remain spaced at least six feet apart and wear cloth face coverings, and not share objects. While the CDC recently stated that the chance of transmission of COVID-19 from surfaces is not as great as they once thought, the virus can still be transmitted by touching a surface with the virus and then touching your mouth, nose or eyes.

As far as summer vacations are concerned, the CDC still recommends staying at home as much as possible, especially if you are in the high risk category for catching COVID-19. Paez said if you do intend on visiting destinations that require air, train, bus, or even car or RV travel, the CDC offers practical tips to travel safely on its website at cdc.gov.

“Remember, whatever you decide whether staying home or traveling, it’s important to unplug from work and rejuvenate with time off this summer,” said Paez.

For more information on Baystate Health, visit baystatehealth.org.

Legislators file bill to halt MassHealth estate recovery

BOSTON – State Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton) and Rep. Christine Barber (D-Somerville) announced the recent filing of new legislation to protect the families of deceased MassHealth patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under federal law, MassHealth – the commonwealth’s Medicaid program – is required to collect its costs from estates of members who received long-term care services in nursing homes. But Massachusetts is one of a few states in the nation that goes beyond this federal mandate and collects money from all MassHealth recipients over age 55, regardless of whether they were in a nursing home.

The new legislation temporarily halts the most problematic aspects of estate recovery during the COVID-19 state of emergency. The bill gives families additional time to navigate the process, waives accumulating interest on the claim and lets descendants remain living in the family home.

Springfield Community Legal Aid Advocacy Coordinator Peter Benjamin offers that the commonwealth’s so-called “estate recovery” protocols, “put MassHealth recipients, who are low-income working and disabled people, in the position of knowing that every time they get needed medical services, they are making it more likely that the state will try to take away the one asset they hope to pass on to their families: their homes.”

MassHealth has been pursuing estate recovery throughout the COVID-19 crisis, forcing families to negotiate the com-

plicated probate and waiver process at a time when courts are closed, home sales are difficult and relocation may be unsafe. Estate recovery adds to the already disparately high burden of COVID-19 on low-income and disabled Massachusetts residents.

“I’m filing this legislation in partnership with Rep. Barber in honor of constituents who fought and won a battle to hang on to a family home. People who are ill should not have to choose between getting the medical care that they need and deserve and keeping their home secure for their children,” Comerford said.

The bill has been endorsed by the Massachusetts chapter of National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, Massachusetts Councils on Aging, Massachusetts Senior Action Council, Massachusetts Advocates for Nursing Home Reform, and Mass Home Care.

The bill aims to extend the timeline for the estate’s personal representative to respond to MassHealth from 60 days to 180 days and would waive the 12 percent interest charged on the MassHealth claims. Additionally, it would prohibit MassHealth from taking action to compel the sale of real estate if someone is currently residing in the home and the bill sunsets 180 days after the current state-of-emergency ends.

The legislation is expected to advance to the Legislature’s Joint Committee on Health Care Financing for consideration.

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GUEST COLUMN

Pinks are top notch fragrance-wise

Who doesn't love the smell of lilacs, roses, peonies or hyacinths? Somewhat more understated than these, but still worthy of acclaim for their wonderful scent are a group of plants known as pinks. Identified by taxonomists as *Dianthus*, I have been lucky enough to grow five heirloom species of this unique genus.

The first is Sweet William, *Dianthus barbatus*, a cottage garden favorite, prized by florists for its tightly clustered, richly scented three-inch flower heads. It is most commonly seen in white, magenta, salmon and pretty bi-colors. Technically a biennial, Sweet William will occasionally return for a third or fourth year of bloom. More often than not, though, this plant puts all of its energy into making flowers, and after it is through and its spent flowers have been removed there is very little left of the plant to overwinter. For the best chance of subsequent seasons, dead-head as soon as possible and fertilize lightly. Only interested in Sweet William as a cut flower? Sow seeds in summer and transplant in the fall for blooms next season.

Clove ink is another favorite. *Dianthus carophyllus* 'Grenadin' is the cultivar I've grown. The first season it impressed me with its tightly mounded spiky silver leaves, which not at all leggy. This was a mixed-seed packet, so I didn't know what to expect color-wise. To my delight, I had three different shades of pink mini carnation-like blooms. While the flowers were sparse, only a couple of stems per plant, it was their scent that really knocked my socks off. Clove, indeed! I've heard that these aren't reliably hardy in our area; we'll have to see what I'll be left with next spring. One rule of thumb about overwintering clove pink and most silver-leaved plants: they hate wet feet and love alkaline soil. Provide good drainage throughout the year and a dusting of lime each spring. Planting along the edge of a rock garden would be ideal.

Dianthus gratianopolitanus is a mouthful for a plant better known as cheddar pink. The first year from seed is a tease. You'll settle for a few quarter-sized fragrant pinks to dark pink blooms. By mid-June of year number two, however, the plant will be at least a foot to 15 inches wide by eight inches tall with flowers too numerous to count. Each individual floret is composed of five flat petals that get a bit deeper in tone near the center and tatter somewhat at the edge. Curly stamens popping up in the middle add to the interest. Although it may be tempting to take hedge

See **GARDEN** page 5

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

Send letters to: **The Chicopee Register**,
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The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

GUEST COLUMN

Joan E. B. Coombs



When feather-nested fledglings fly

Life in its various forms – whether human, animal, or bird – takes time to develop and grow. Whatever the age span, there's a g-r-o-w-t-h process. Amazingly, with each life, the proper nourishment and environment can eventually lead to a successful, mature life.

Not choosing biology as a major, yet having grown up observing and tending various small-farm animals and birds from birth, helps one to understand the development and the growing-up process. Whether it was watching newborn calves be born, get up, and wobble-walk. Or, when weaned, helping them to drink from a bucket, instead of feeding from Mama Cow. With gentle, patient coaxing, calves eventually learned to sip, slurp and swallow. Or, if it was rescuing a tail-wounded squirrel back to health. (Later "Tippy the Squirrel" celebrated by scale-running up and down the keys of an upright piano sitting against the wall of an enclosed sunporch!) Or, if it was the eager, day-by-day watching of a pen of hen's incubated and hatching eggs and the ensuing life-struggle of transparent-skinny baby chicks onto finally seeing their yellow fuzz adorningly and adorably appear.

Zoom to present day observations. By all appearances the "birds-of-a-feather-stick-together" motto is applying to our nearby barn swallow parents, now hovering over a few newly hatched eggs right outside our front door. They are in feathered abode, way up in a mud-thatched nest molded over the frame of our front door's entrance light.

Every time we leave our home and come back, perhaps our nearby neighbors wonder about out sidewalk conversations with Mr. and Mrs. Barn Swallow? Whenever walking out, the birds swish by with swoop loops from their nest to landing right on our front

lawn's white globe lamp. As they perch together atop the white globe, we intentionally stop and chat.

"Well, good morning! And, how's the family?"

As if listening to our greetings, they tilt their heads as if understanding every word.

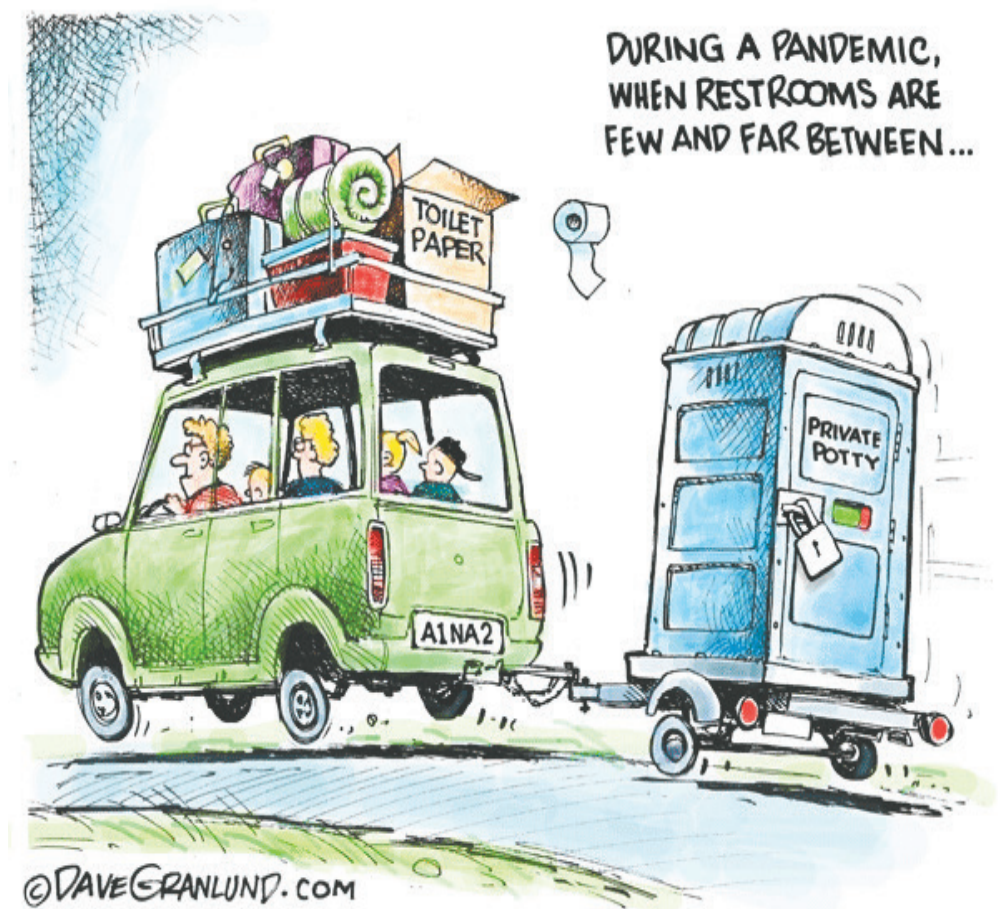
So far, they haven't replied in bird-banter. While spindle-leg standing, as each parent starts preening its feathers, we sense their contentment.

Recently however, Mr. Barn Swallow seems edgy. He's overtly protective. His Mrs. is on setting their nest more. As the hatching arrival approaches, the pair still takes daytime flights for insect food, and each takes turns with keeping the nested eggs warm.

Protective environments, with all the necessary components for healthy growth – shelter, food and nurturing – happen during times of incubation. Often it seems that a reoccurring similarity or our new-normal reality applies to what we all are experiencing with COVID-19's current safety admonitions of: "Sheltering in place," "Wearing masks to safeguard yourself and others," and to "Keep practicing safe-distancing."

As the 2020 summer days progress, the barn swallow nestlings will stir, their parents will tend to their needs, and within about three days after hatching their eyes will open and see a new world.

Recent school and college graduates likewise appear to have a reoccurring comparison. The nests that nurtured them have been preparing each one to see the world, with the abiding support and guidance of those who have cherished, raised, taught and trained them. And, we'll all be cheering them on – with encouraging words and conversations – when the feather-nested fledglings fly.



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PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

EDITOR
Tyler Witkop
chicopeeregister@turley.com

STAFF WRITER
Dalton Zbierski
dzbierski@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

SOCIAL MEDIA



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EMAIL

Advertising Sales
Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com

Editor

Tyler Witkop
chicopeeregister@turley.com

WEB

www.chicopeeregister.turley.com

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Community Foundation delivers funds for COVID relief

SPRINGFIELD – In its 10th round of grant funding for COVID-19 relief, the Community Foundaiton of Western Massachusetts recently delivered nearly \$950,000 to local nonprofits to address immediate needs in the community. The latest round of funding targets community centers, food security and education services.

To date, the Community Foundation has awarded more than \$4 million in grants to address the needs of non-profits serving on the front lines of the COVID-19 crisis.

Nonprofits that received grants in this round will use the funds for PPE and related supplies; food; community outreach and health education; trauma/recovery

support for front-line workers and those impacted by COVID-19; stress-reduction resources; and basic needs. Among the 29 Western Massachusetts nonprofits that received grants are Catholic Charities Agency of the Diocese of Springfield, Enlace de Familias de Holyoke/Holyoke Family Network, Gandara Mental Health Center, Greater Springfield Senior Services Inc., Holyoke Community College Foundation, Multicultural Community Services of the Pioneer Valley, Springfield Rescue Mission, Springfield Technical Community College Foundation, and the Trauma Institute & Child Trauma Institute.

The Response Fund has raised \$6.3 million from 630 donors, including foun-

dations, businesses and individuals, and has received resources from the statewide Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund, which has provided \$2.8 million in funding to support the Community Foundation’s response to the pandemic crisis in the region.

The Community Foundation is requesting applications from local nonprofits for its continued grant-making in the coming weeks and months. Organizations seeking grants for resources due to the COVID-19 pandemic are encouraged to complete a short online application on the Community Foundation website at <http://communityfoundation.org/request-for-information/>. New grants are awarded every week.

The Community Foundation welcomes additional donations to the COVID-19 Response Fund for the Pioneer Valley. All donations go to community needs. Gifts can be made online at www.communityfoundation.org/covid19.



MMWEC receives additional funding for MLP Solar Rebate Program

LUDLOW – The partnership between the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company, the joint action agency for municipal utilities in Massachusetts, and the state Department of Energy Resources will continue with round two of funding for the Municipal Light Plant Solar Rebate Program.

The MLP Solar Rebate Program, created by MMWEC and the Municipal Electric Association of Massachusetts, originally launched in May 2019. Through the program, the DOER and participating MLPs offer rebates of \$1.20 per watt (split evenly between the two), up to 50 percent of the total project costs on solar installations of 25 kilowatts or less.

Individual MLPs also have the option to include additional project criteria.

In total, MMWEC has been awarded \$372,200 from the DOER as part of the second round of funding, which will be allocated to its participating MLPs to fund the rebate program. Applications for solar project rebates will be accepted through December 30, 2020 or until funds are exhausted.

Phase one of the MLP Solar Rebate Program was a success. The DOER awarded MMWEC \$772,000 to disperse among its MLPs. In total, 93 solar installation project applications were approved in MMWEC Member MLP communities in the first year. Those projects will gen-

erate more than 700 kilowatts of clean, renewable solar capacity for the commonwealth.

MMWEC Member MLPs that are participating in the MLP Solar Rebate Program include utilities in Ashburnham, Boylston, Chicopee, Groton, Holden, Ipswich, Mansfield, Marblehead, Paxton, Peabody, Princeton, Shrewsbury, Sterling, South Hadley, Templeton, Wakefield and West Boylston.

“MMWEC is pleased to continue its momentum with phase two of the rebate program and work with the DOER to help the commonwealth reach its renewable goals, while assisting residents with installing solar on their homes,” said

MMWEC CEO Ronald C. DeCurzio.

Once approved, eligible projects must be completed within one calendar year. Interested customers first need approval from their participating MLP and once granted, can visit www.munihelps.org to fill out an application.

MMWEC is a nonprofit, public corporation and political subdivision of the commonwealth of Massachusetts, created by an Act of the General Assembly in 1975 and authorized to issue debt to finance a wide range of energy facilities. MMWEC provides a variety of power supply, financial, risk management and other services to the state’s consumer-owned municipal utilities.

GARDEN from page 4

shears and lop off all the spent flowers at once, don’t do it! Better to cut each stem back to a point of new growth, time consuming as it may be. Your plant will look better and might even reward you with a few more flowers later in the season.

Pheasant-eye or cottage pink, *Dianthus plumarius*, is less behaved than its cousins. The silver foliage has a tendency bend and grow in funny, rambling angles, making it a great candidate for draping over the edge of a raised border or rock wall. The flowers are less prolific than cheddar pink but similar in appearance except that they have an even more pronounced, dark eye, hence its name. I’ve seen them in white, light pink and deep pink, each with a magenta center and the same tattered petals and wonderful scent.

The last pretty pink I’ll mention today is *Dianthus superbis*, fringed or superb pink. It differs from clove, cheddar and pheasant eye in that its foliage is green and less spiky, more grass-like. And while the others top off under a foot, fringed pink grows two feet tall or taller. Because of this, it will require staking: simple “pea brush” is usually enough support. Pink or purple flowers are, you guessed it, deeply fringed, giving them a very delicate appearance that is best admired (and sniffed) up close. Like the others mentioned here, these are also won-

derfully fragrant.

Many of these *Dianthus* varieties are available by seed through JL Hudson, Seedsman (jlhudsonseeds.net). Plants are easy to grow, best started off the heat in late February.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.



COUPLE from page 1

After kicking the virus, Ben and Rebecca have remained symptom free for more than a month. Their familiarity with COVID-19 has led them to question how rapidly the country is reopening amid the pandemic.

“I really hope that people do take it more seriously because it’s scary,” said Rebecca. “It’s terrifying. I wish that they didn’t even start with Phase 1. I think it’s way too soon to start opening things up.”

While Massachusetts currently

boasts one of the lowest COVID-19 transmission rates in the country, Ben warned residents to be careful. It is no time to relax, as the virus searches out any and all opportunities to amplify.

“Humanity has no precedence for this virus, and our bodies aren’t prepared for it. It is absolutely worth it to give up an extra week or month or even couple of months of your time in order to make sure that no one else has to go through what we’ve gone through,” said Ben.

Dalton Zbierski is a staff writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

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7						8				9
10			11			12				
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			32			33			34	35
39	40				41			42		
43				44				45		
46			47					48		
49									50	
	51								52	

CLUES ACROSS

1. Protects from weather

4. Superhigh frequency

7. Southern constellation

8. Swines

10. Self-righteously moralistic person

12. United Arab Emirates city

13. Surinam toad

14. Sign language

16. Tattoo (slang)

17. Makes level

19. Sun up in New York

20. It must be scratched

21. Where people live

25. Swiss river

26. Buddy

27. One of two equal parts of a

divisible whole

29. Shrek is one

30. Egyptian unit of weight

31. Fiddler crabs

32. Carroll O'Connor's TV wife

39. No longer having life

41. Former OSS

42. A way to emit sound

43. Mandela's party

44. Adult female chicken

45. U. of Miami's mascot

46. Southeastern Chinese people

48. Casino game

49. Amos Alonzo __, US football coach

50. Joint connecting two pipes at right

angles

51. Will Ferrell film

52. River in NE Scotland

CLUES DOWN

1. Occur

2. Show up

3. Capital of Taiwan

4. Former French coin

5. Some are bad

6. Monetary unit

8. Package (abbr.)

9. Indian religious person

11. Crew

14. Antidiuretic hormone

15. Makeshift

18. Baseball box score stat

19. Make a mistake

20. Not moving

22. Even distribution

of weight

23. Clumsy person

24. Paddle

27. Worked the soil

28. Alias

29. Plant cultivated in Peru

31. Side-blotched lizards genus

32. Wild dog

33. Immoral act

34. Pound

35. Manning and Lilly are two

36. Put on the shelf for now

37. Baltimore ballplayer

38. Cuddle

39. Dashes

40. Related on the mother's side

44. Witch

47. Kilogram force (abbr.)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 3



Dozens of educators stood tall on Haigis Field on the campus of UMass Amherst June 16, advocating for educational justice.

STAFF PHOTOS BY DALTON ZBIERSKI



From left a member of the Springfield Education Association poses with South Hadley Education Association President Scott Beaulieu, Logann Beaulieu, a student activist from Belchertown, Maureen Coglein-Posner, president of the Springfield Education Association, Laura Demakis, president of the Chicopee Education Association, and Max Page, vice president of the MTA.



MTA President Max Page addresses an audience on the campus of UMass Amherst during a car parade and rally for more education funding and equity.



A number of creative signs highlighted the message of the teachers' rally that crossed all parts of Western Massachusetts.



Teachers throughout Western Massachusetts decorated their vehicles advocating for more education funding and equity during a June 16 car parade and rally at UMass Amherst.

MARCHING from page 1

let their efforts go to waste. MTA Vice President Max Page said he won't stand for the recent developments nor will he let them derail the cause.

"There are awful layoffs that are taking place all throughout the state; thousands of our members are being laid off. Those are educators that the students need," said Page. "This is one of the wealthiest states in the nation. The money is here. The bad news is that the money rests inside the bank accounts and the yachts and the Gloucester mansions of the very wealthy."

Less than a year ago, the Student Opportunity Act passed unanimously through the Legislature and was signed by Gov. Charlie Baker. The bill was set to increase Chapter 70 aid and other education funding by \$1.5 billion over inflation after a seven-year phase-in, but the pandemic could lessen the awarded total by 10 percent.

"We worked so hard to get that SOA money and everybody saw our success. It

was for the students, for the families, for equitable education for all students and for the resources we need. The reality is that COVID-19 is causing a lot of budget crises. Now, we need to get creative and look at how we're going to raise that revenue," said Demakis.

School districts are battling grave new challenges as the pandemic worsens the economic strain that has been prevalent for years. Page is pleading with state legislators to support students and educators instead of allocating money to less worthy causes.

"Over the past few months, while 100,000 of our fellow citizens have died, more than all of the American soldiers in the past 50 years, the billionaires of Massachusetts have seen their wealth grow by \$11 billion," said Page.

"While people were dying by the drove, they were getting wealthier by \$11 billion. The good news is that we have a way to extract that money and bring it into the public good for our public schools and colleges. It's a beautiful word called taxes."

On June 16, educators from nearly 20 Western Massachusetts districts met at Springfield Central High School, traveled to Chicopee High School, continued on to Sheldon Field in Northampton and stopped at Amherst-Pelham Regional High School before arriving at UMass. An entourage of more than 50 vehicles delivered a powerful message on educational injustice.

"In a place like Chicopee, a year ago, 56 percent of our kids are minorities, whereas only 2 percent of the staff are. That is typical across the state of Massachusetts," said Demakis. "Educational injustice is racial injustice because we underfunded certain places for so long that the kids are automatically behind from the get go. We can't let that continue to happen. It's a hard conversation to have, but we have to recognize it and understand that it is real."

Demakis added that it's been "heart-breaking" to witness the challenges that emerged when the district adopted remote learning. Students from a number of families lacking computers or internet

access were unable to participate in academics this spring.

"You can't make assumptions that those things are accessible to everybody. It's inherently naïve at the least. If we don't address that and understand that it's not the same across the board for everyone, it's going to continue that we don't have equitable education for everybody," said Demakis.

Promoting economic, racial and educational justice is being prioritized by the MTA and its subsidiaries. Instead of submitting to the economic difficulties that are forcing layoffs, Page urges men and women in positions of power to act.

"In my fantasy world, at some point we'll have School Committees that say, 'No, we're not doing it; we're not undermining and destroying our public schools. We're not doing these layoffs because the state needs to come through on the funding in order to protect our public schools throughout the state,'" said Page.

Dalton Zbierski is a staff writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.



Sports

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BASEBALL

NECBL alums drafted by MLB

NORTH ADAMS – Despite the 2020 Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft being shortened to five rounds due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the New England Collegiate Baseball League (NECBL) saw eight of its alumni selected during the two-day event followed by nearly 20 others inking free agent contracts in the days that followed.

The Newport Gulls boasted five of the eight NECBL alumni who had their name called over the course of the draft, including 2019 outfielder Hudson Haskin (Tulane) going 39th overall in the second round. Meanwhile, Jared Schuster (Wake Forest), who played in the New England League in 2018 with the New Bedford Bay Sox, kept the NECBL's strong reputation of first-round selections intact after being picked by the Atlanta Braves with the 25th overall pick; the southpaw is the 29th all-time NECBL alumnus to earn a first-round draft curtain call.

In addition to Newport's five draft selections, as well as New Bedford's representation through Schuster, NECBL organizations Upper Valley and Vermont also had one alumnus drafted each, as the Nighthawks saw 2018 right-hander Levi Thomas (Troy) go in the fourth round (109th overall) to the San Diego Padres, while the Mountaineers' 2019 NECBL All-Star, righty Ryan Murphy (Le Moyne), went in the fifth round (144th overall).

At the conclusion of the draft, another 17 NECBL alumni spanning each of the last three seasons signed free agent contracts with a variety of MLB franchises. In total, nine of the league's 13 active organizations from the 2019 campaign had at least one alumnus either drafted or sign as a free agent highlighted by the Gulls' seven such honorees, while Mystic led the way with five free agent signees.

"Given the circumstances and the adversity that not only our league but each and every summer collegiate baseball league has had to endure this season, we could not be more proud of each and every one of our alumni that were either

See NECBL page 8

VOLLEYBALL

Ortiz was set to lead Pacers

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee High School boys volleyball team was improving through leaps and bounds to be a regular contender in the tournament in June. This year was supposed to be the time for Jose Ortiz Batiz to shine as he was the sole senior on the team. Coach Don Turgeon celebrated Batiz's contribution to the team.

"Jose was a four-year player," the coach said. "Through his hard work and dedication to the sport, he was selected to be the captain. He plans on continuing with volleyball as a recreational hobby. He was also a two-year member of the wrestling team where he ranked fifth in his weight class in the Western Mass. Tournament. He was the Vice President of his International Club. He plans on continuing his education at HCC where he wants to study the Culinary Arts."

FILE PHOTOS

Left, Jose Ortiz Batiz sets the ball. Right, Ortiz Batiz in action last season for the Pacers.



HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

TMC postpones MaxPreps use this fall

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – With COVID-19 completely canceling out the Spring 2020 season for all high school sports, there has been little opportunity to continue working at integrating new changes set for the upcoming school year and next.

One of those changes has been postponed for the upcoming fall season.

In late February, the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association's member schools voted to go to a statewide tournament. The majority vote took place Feb. 28 and uprooted a tournament Western Massachusetts was used to having for many years.

Further, the "Walker" system, a ranking system formula utilized in Western Mass. as well as some Central Mass. sports, was scrapped in favor of MaxPreps, a CBS-sponsored website that tracks schedules, rosters, results and playing statistics. MaxPreps also has a proprietary rankings system that would have been utilized to

determine playoff seeds for the new state tournament.

Many have questioned whether or not the system was fair, especially considering the diversity of the schools in Western Mass., the main reasons the Walker system was created.

Now, the MIAA's Tournament Management Committee has voted to postpone the use of the MaxPreps ranking system for at least the 2020 fall season. As a result, Western and some Central Mass. sports will utilize the Walker system to rank teams for sectional tournaments. Eastern Mass. schools typically rank by overall record with tiebreakers for similar records.

The MaxPreps site will still be used to input scores for the entire school year and then MaxPreps will be used for all aspects of the tournament as the statewide tournament is set to begin in the 2021-2022 school year.

There was a movement at the TMC's June 18 online meeting not to use MaxPreps for the entire school year, but that motion was defeated. The body, which had 12 members present,

voted unanimously to postpone it for just the fall.

The fall season was not in question when the coronavirus pandemic first started in March. But as the situation developed, upcoming seasons has come

into question because of the extended need to control large gatherings, the continued need for masks, and the idea that life cannot truly return to normal

See TMC page 8

Senior athletes features wrapping up

The Turley Publications sports department will soon be wrapping up its features on senior spring athletes.

If you have not seen your senior or their sport featured, we encouraged you to send photos and info on your son or daughter, and encourage you to contact their coach to speak with us.

We have reached out to spring coaches and athletic directors, but are still trying to collect info on every team that would have been involved in this spring's season.

We hope to also publish action photos of seniors from previous seasons, though parents and coaches are encouraged to send photos of seniors they would like to see published in the upcoming editions of the paper.

All submissions can be made to Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at sports@turley.com. In the subject line, please identify the school and sport you are writing in about. Senior athletes are also encouraged to write in to talk about the season that wasn't.

Thunderbirds celebrated growth during 2019-2020 season

SPRINGFIELD – Today, the American Hockey League announced that the Springfield Thunderbirds have been named the league’s Ticket Sales Department of the Year and also recognized the franchise for achieving 15% growth in group ticket revenue for the 2019-2020 season.

“We are truly proud to receive this award from the AHL. Ticket sales growth is only possible through the hard work of our sales team and the commitment of our fan base. I want to express my heartfelt thanks to our staff and our community

for continuing to support us through this season and beyond,” said Nathan Costa, President of the Thunderbirds.

The T-Bird’s fourth season saw a continued upward trajectory for the franchise, which is a product of the team’s ongoing commitment to fan and community engagement. This year, the T-Birds ranked second in the AHL in year over year growth in both total revenue and total tickets sales. The team placed in the Top 5 in year over year growth across all ticket categories: total sales, full season tickets, group sales, partial plans, and individual

ticket sales.

Since the team’s inception in 2016, they have achieved a staggering 87% growth in ticket revenue. This past season, they celebrated a new milestone of over 1,000 full season ticket members, achieved eight sellouts, and averaged 5,262 fans per game. This marked the team’s second straight year with over 5,000 average attendance.

The announcement was made as part of the month-long 2020 AHL Team Business Spring Series. The 2020 AHL Team Business Spring Series, running May 19

through June 19, is a program of online presentations and discussions being hosted by the league’s Team Business Services department. Team and league front-office personnel from throughout the American Hockey League meet each offseason to discuss best practices and innovative ideas in several areas, including ticket sales, corporate sales and marketing.

For more information or to become a 2020-2021 Springfield Thunderbirds ticket member, call (413) 739-GOAL (4625) or visit www.SpringfieldThunderbirds.com.

Quabbin Valley Baseball League hoping for mid-July start

REGION – The Quabbin Valley Over-30 Baseball League is seeking new players for 2020 season. The league has six teams, several with open roster spots.

Last year, the league voted to allow players age 28 and 29 to be able to join the league, though players under 30 are not eligible to pitch. The cost of the league this season is \$192. For returning and new players, sign-ups have been placed on hold until a determination has been made on the season

going forward. Sign-ups should resume soon. Based on the governor’s re-open plan, the league is aiming for a start to the season in mid-July with a modified schedule. Games are nine innings and metal (BBCOR -3) or wood bats are allowed. Fields locations are throughout Western Mass.

For more information on the league, or if you are interested in registering, go to <https://www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org/>. The league is also in Facebook.

Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League tryouts still ongoing

REGION – The Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League is seeking new players for the upcoming 2020 season. The league is seeking players ages 28 and up. Players turning 28 this year are eligible. However, only players 30 and older can pitch. The league plays 15 regular season games with games being held mostly on Sundays with a couple of weekday games thrown in the mix as well as a special Mother’s Day Saturday game in early May. However, due to the current circumstances, the league schedule has been pushed back. The league

still plans to play its season once bans on gatherings are lifted. League tryouts are June 28 with a possible additional tryout scheduled. The league is built on comradery, fair play, and having a good time with friends. If interested in trying out, go to www.valleywheelbaseball.com. The rules of the league and new player forms can be found on the site. For further information, you can contact the league’s commissioner, Jim Nason at wheel12@comcast.net or call him at (413) 433-4308. New players are still needed for the abbreviated season

NECBL from page 7

drafted or signed as free agents after this past weekend,” NECBL Commissioner Sean McGrath stated. “No doubt will we continue to see more familiar faces do similarly in the days and weeks ahead, but regardless, I am so thrilled for all the young men who have been rewarded for their hard work and dedication not only during their time in the New England League but throughout their collegiate careers,

both on the diamond and in the classroom. The best of luck to each of them as they pursue the first chapter of what will hopefully be long professional baseball careers!”

A league-high four players either were drafted or signed by the Baltimore Orioles, while three had their name called by the Seattle Mariners and two apiece went to the San Francisco Giants, Toronto Blue Jays and defending World Series champion Washington Nationals.

TMC from page 7

until a vaccine is created. That could take until sometime next year.

The use of MaxPreps as a unifying system is reliant on the coaches and athletic directors making sure scores and statistics are entered into the website in a timely manner.

There are still multiple steps to go before a full 32-team (in most cases) state tournament is implemented. The PVIAC is also still looking to develop an alterna-

tive to the departing Western Mass. tournament. The hope is when meetings are able to resume on a more regular basis, those discussions will be able to continue in a productive manner.

Schedules have been set by athletic directors for the fall season, however, it remains to be seen what guidance the state will issue as it relates to athletic contests. It also remains to be seen how high school athletics will adjust to state guidance on classroom time, which may be partially remote this fall.

IN THE CITY

Unemployment claims decrease over prior week

Massachusetts had 29,984 individuals file an initial claim for standard Unemployment Insurance from June 7 to June 13, a decrease of 14,676 over the previous week, the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development reports.

Since March 15, a total of 998,883 initial claims have been filed for UI. Following two consecutive weeks of decline,

continued UI claims at 569,434 was up 3,541 from the previous week.

At 15,892, Pandemic Unemployment Assistance initial claims filed for the week ending June 13 were 5,099 less than the previous week, the third week in a row. Since April 20, 609,960 claimants have filed an initial claim for PUA.

The Pandemic Emergency Unem-

ployment Compensation, which provided up to 13 weeks of extended benefits was implemented on May 21. For the week ending June 13, 3,647 PEUC initial claims were filed bringing the total of PEUC filings to 50,592 since implementation.

Since March, the customer service staff at the Department of Unemploy-

ment Assistance has grown from around 50 employees to nearly 2000. The remote customer service operation is now making over 35,000 individual contacts per day and DUA continues to host unemployment town halls – which have been held in English, Spanish, and Portuguese – and have been attended by around 350,000 constituents.

STCC food pantry receives gift from Stop & Shop for summer relief

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Technical Community College received another donation from Stop & Shop to support the Ram Cupboard, an emergency food pantry to help students facing food insecurity.

Stop & Shop has made previous donations to the Ram Cupboard. The latest gift of \$1,000 for “summer relief” brings the total to \$13,500.

“We sincerely appreciate the generous support from Stop & Shop,” said Denise Hurst, vice president of advancement and external affairs at STCC. “This gift comes to us during challenging times. Many of our students have been struggling financially through the COVID-19 pandemic. This donation will help put food on their tables.”

The STCC Center for Access Ser-

vices, which administers the Ram Cupboard, will work with students in need, connect them with local support agencies for immediate assistance and mail them a Stop & Shop gift card for additional support.

In response to the threat posed by COVID-19, STCC this summer and through the fall will offer online courses with a mix of low-density on-campus labs. STCC continues to offer a range of student supports in remote formats, including the Center For Access Services, Academic Advising, Career Development Center, Disability Services, Testing and Assessment, Tutoring and Veterans’ Affairs.

Stop & Shop representative Maura O’Brien and Belchertown Store Manager Jasen Hodge recognized the difficulty

with food insecurity many students are facing this summer and wanted to help.

“As a show of community support, Stop & Shop is going to provide summer relief to the School Food Pantry recipients at STCC in the amount of \$1,000,” O’Brien said. “We know how difficult this time has been for so many, and we’re proud to support those in need.”

Stop & Shop has offered a school-based food pantry program to help reduce hunger among students in communities served by the company’s more than 400 stores in the Northeast.

Stop & Shop works with pre-schools, grade schools and colleges to create a customized program based on the specific needs of the students and the school’s infrastructure. The company’s goal is to ensure that students have access to food.

STCC students who need help should contact CAS by emailing CAS@stcc.edu.

For more information about STCC or to enroll, visit stcc.edu/apply or call Admissions at 413-755-3333.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

STCC received a donation from Stop & Shop to support the food pantry for students.

Springfield Technical Community College names spring Dean’s List

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Technical Community College recently named its Dean’s List for the spring 2020 semester. To qualify, a student must earn 12 or more college-level credits in a semester and achieve a minimum GPA of 3.30.

From Chicopee are Eman Abdul Baki, Kevin Andres Acuna Escobar, Nicholas Ryan Adamczyk, Mubashra Rafiq Awan, Edem Ayedimov, Tiffany Battles, Kayla Jean Bibeau, Andrew Black, Kayla Hanora Blackbird, Julie Marie Borodin, Emily Monica Bouthiller, Tesia Britt, Bobbi Brouillette, Amanda R. Buchanan, Laurie Rose Caraballo, Naisha Mabel Caraballo, Alexander Casimiro, Ann M. Chapman,

Jalen Jesus Cintron, Julia Jeannine Cirillo, Megan E. Clifford, Mariana Nunes Coelho, Joselynn C. Collins, Julian Colon, Aaron Drake Critch, Alice M. Cruz, Kail-ee Marie Dawson, Steven Deren, Alison Emily Deska, Erik Christian Diaz, Leo P. Dion, Diana Eveline Divnich, Christopher Bryan Dunlap, Jordan K. Dunphy, Celest Rose Dzijja, Samantha Dziok, Alyson Rose Everett, Shawn Paul Ferrari, Marek Filip, Ciara Ann Gamache, Tamara Nader Gheit, Aaliyah Jewel Gregoire, Kenneth C. Gregoire, Monique D. Gregory, Danielle L. Hines, Natalie V. Ionkin, Ashlyne Wambui Khayesi, Angelina Kirichenko, Karoline Elizabeth Klaus, Craig Kriko-

rian, Robert Lafleche, Jessica Danielle Lancto, Benjamin Lee Lawlor, Miranda K. Lebel, Kevin C. Malloy, Diana Martinez, Kimberlee Izzibelle Mattoon, Alicja Maziarz, Marcus Aurelious McPhail, Jonathan Meimerstorf, Patrick Neil Mitchell, Allen Thomas Molekunnel, Analiz Monzon, Yajaira Moulton, Nora Aileen Murphy, Steven Musante, Jennifer R. Nadeau, Soldelys Navedo, Mitchel O’Brien, Jinelsis Ortiz-Vega, Linette Otero, Nikita S. Patel, Mark J. Paul, Daniel Joseph Pe-pin, Rebecca Anne Poirier, Jessica Lee Provenzano, Maxwell C. Pugh, Alexis MacKenzie Rattelle, Tristan T. Rawana, Audra C. Raymond, Christian D. Reid,

Kavya Rejikumar, Zhanaya M. Richardson, Giovanni Rosado, Adam Paul Rousseau, Marcin Rozanski, Amanda M. Santerre, Shavonne Santiago, Ryan Antonio Rafael Santos, Suzanna Sereda, Lyudmila Sevostyanova, Sulamita Sevostyanova, McKenna Sousa, Kate Melissa Spillane, Zachary Paul St.Laurent, Avalee Marie Strong, Sammy S. Tan, Beata Tobiasz, Vladimir Tokarev, Matthew Isaiah Toledo, Kayla A. Tompkins, Kevin Torres, Kiana Thais Torres, Jose G. Valentin, Jeick Humberto Vargas Cabral, Beatriz Vazquez, Amanda C. Warwick, Holly Wedderspoon, Triska-Tushanna A. Williams Humphrey and Jessica Marie Zalucki.

HCC Foundation awards scholarships

HOLYOKE – This spring, the HCC Foundation awarded nearly \$210,000 in scholarships to 200 incoming, current and transferring HCC students and will set a record for the number of scholarships it distributes for the 2020-2021 academic year, 233. Over the years, the HCC Foundation, the nonprofit fundraising arm of the college, has provided more than \$3 million in student scholarships while also investing in classroom equipment and technology for select academic and stu-

dent support programs.

Among the scholarship recipients are Chicopee students Lauren Bailey, Alexandria Bombardier, Cynthia Burgos, Evelyn Cruz, Joni George, Melissa Jenkins, Sumeyye Kirca, Tugce Kuruca, Felicia LaPointe, Nakkita MacDonald, Jordan Maroon, Sabrina McCullough, Jennifer Perez, Michael Polanco, Adam Randolph, Jacob Raymond, Brandon Ricardo, Annalisa Rizzo, Christopher Royster and Natalie St. George.

Graduates from Willie Ross...

Bashar Aljashaam, of Chicopee, celebrates his graduation from Willie Ross School for the Deaf in Longmeadow. The virtual commencement featured remarks from WRSD President and CEO Bert Carter and other school administrators, followed by a unique virtual celebration for each of the four graduates. Education Director Erika Kaftan gave a special tribute for each graduating student, followed by remarks from the graduate and a photo montage of their time at Willie Ross. Aljashaam is set to begin work in his family’s auto repair business.



Chicopee students earn degrees

FAIRFIELD, Conn. – Fairfield University announced the undergraduate degree recipients from May 2020. From Chicopee are Kevin P. Johnson and Lynn O’Shea. At the time of graduation, a

student must have earned a minimum of 120 credits and completed at least 38 three- or four-credit courses, and have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 at the conclusion of their senior year.

Chicopee students earn Dean’s List

WEST HAVEN, Conn. – The University of New Haven, Connecticut, recently announced its Dean’s List for the spring

2020 semester. Among those students are Stephanie Beaulieu, Gabriela Chavez, Andrew Ilnicki and Joseph Klaus.

Centre College names graduates

DANVILLE, Ky. – Alexis Corcoran, of Chicopee, graduated from Centre College with a bachelor of arts degree in international studies during the college’s virtual Senior Celebration held Sunday, May 24.

Centre held the virtual Senior Cel-

ebration to honor the 352 members of the Class of 2020 on the date originally scheduled for Commencement. The event was not meant to take the place of an in-person Commencement weekend, which will occur in the future when conditions allow.

The benefits of local newspapers

Local newspapers play vital roles in communities across the globe. The Information Age has changed the way many people get their news, but local newspapers continue to serve as valuable resources for readers interested in learning more about and becoming more involved in their communities.

While local publishers continue to adapt to the changes brought about by technology, the following are a handful of benefits unique to local newspapers.

- **Local newspapers keep readers up-to-date on their own communities.** Globalization may be here to stay, but that does not mean local communities are no longer home to newsworthy events. National and international newspapers and 24-hour cable news channels can keep men and women up-to-date on national and world news, but in many instances, local newspapers are the only means people have to learn about what’s going on in their own communities. Local politics impact residents’ lives every day, and local newspapers cover local politics extensively.

- **Local newspapers benefit nearby businesses.** Small business owners often connect with community members via local newspapers. A strong, locally based small business community can improve economies in myriad ways, creating jobs in the community and contributing tax dollars that can be used to strengthen local schools and infrastructure. And local newspapers do their part by providing affordable and effective advertising space to local business owners looking to connect with their communities.

- **Local newspapers can strengthen communities.** Local newspapers are great resources for residents who want to become more active in their communities and learn more about community events. Local newspapers often showcase community events like carnivals, local theater productions and projects like park cleanups. These are great ways for readers to become more active in their communities and build stronger communities as a result.

- **Local newspapers can benefit children.** National newspapers may have



little age-appropriate content to offer young children, but local newspapers tend to include more soft news items than national periodicals, and such stories typically are appropriate for young readers. According to Newspapers in Education, students who participated in an NIE group in Florida performed significantly better in spelling and vocabulary than nonreaders. Addition-

al studies have indicated that students who use newspapers in the classroom perform better on standardized reading tests than those who do not use newspapers in class.

Many local newspapers have played vital roles in their communities for decades, providing a go-to resource for local readers and business owners.

13 Weekly Newspapers Serving The Local Communities

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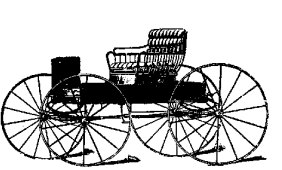
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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20C0103CA
In the matter of:
David Paul
St. Onge Jr.-Depalo
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by David Paul St. Onge Jr.-Depalo of Chicopee, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
David Paul Depalo
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/07/2020.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of

this Court.
Date: June 09, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
6/25/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20P0884EA
Estate of:
Jacqueline Ann Breault
Also known as:
Jacqueline A. Breault
Date of Death: 03/11/2020
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by: Michael R. Breault of Palmer, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that:Michael R. Breault of

Palmer, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on 07/15/2020.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised

administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: June 10, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
6/25/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD20P0916GD
In the matter of:
Wilfredo Moreno
Of: Chicopee, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION

FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Baystate Medical Center of Springfield, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Wilfredo Moreno is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Nancy Godbout of South Hadley, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond.
The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian Is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.
You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 07/14/2020. This day is NOT

a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.
WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: June 15, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
6/25/2020

WE'VE EXPANDED OUR WEB SITE PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Museum connects visitors to WWII history

HUDSON – As history compels the world to observe the 75th anniversary year of the end of World War II, visitors to the American Heritage Museum in Hudson are being offered the opportunity to connect with that era by driving a legendary Sherman or Chaffee tank.

The Tank Driving Experience programs have been developed by veterans and museum docents who were

tank instructors in the Army and Marine Corps. The experience transports participants back to 1944 that begins with visitors putting on tanker overalls, participating in a training course and being briefed on tactical objectives required of tank crews from WWII through today.

“Imagine yourself receiving one-on-one driving instruction in either the world’s only full dual control M4A3

Sherman tank or dual control M24 Chaffee tank,” Rob Collings, museum president and CEO said. “The legendary Sherman tanks were in every major battle in WWII. The Chaffee light tanks were revered by its crew for being quick, maneuverable and effective. The Tank Driving Experience is unforgettable. We hope participants will take away a personal piece of this history and passion to learn more during

this milestone anniversary year.”

Hunter Chaney, the museum’s education services coordinator said the immersive experience may be an effective way to engage younger folks and offer new understandings of the dangers faced by soldiers during the war.

For more information on the Tank Driving Experience, visit www.americanheritagemuseum.org/tank-driving-experiences.



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Keep your eyes out for our BCP labeling on items throughout the store. We have been working hard to add more items to this list each week. Our fresh pork category is dropping in price the fastest, so grab some ribs for your next cookout or a pork butt for the smoker!!

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